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TAGS: [KU](#) [KDMR](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION, AUGUST 11-13: GUANTANAMO
DETAINEES; "ONE HUNDRED DAYS" OP-ED; PALESTINIAN APOLOGY;
POLITICAL REFORM

[11](#). SUMMARY: In an article entitled "Why the Distortion?" one commentator takes issue with President Bush's evaluation of the situation in Iraq one hundred days after the end of major military operations.

Despite Prime Minister Abbas' reported statement of condemnation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, several commentators continue to demand a formal apology before Abbas visits Kuwait. Remarks by PLO Political Chief Farouk Qaddomi published in the local media on August 12 that "hatred towards Palestinians still lives in the minds of Kuwaitis" fuels vicious personal attacks on the editorial pages, while another writer calls for forgiveness on both sides.

A liberal commentator rebuts calls by Islamists earlier in the week for the release of the Guantanamo detainees by labeling the detainees "terrorists and outlaws." One newspaper reports that a Ministry of Interior delegation will depart soon for the U.S. and Guantanamo Bay. Local media also reports that a group of intellectuals signed an open letter calling for economic and political reform, and revisions to the constitution. END SUMMARY.

[12](#). News Stories: Al-Rai Al-Aam reports on August 13 that the Chairman of the Popular Committee for the Kuwaiti Detainees in Guantanamo, Khalid Al-Adwa stated that a Ministry of Interior delegation will depart for the U.S. and Guantanamo Bay in the next few days. Al-Adwa told Al-Anba that the Pentagon might transfer some of the Guantanamo detainees to Baghram Base in Afghanistan or to other American bases around the world to interrogate them.

All papers report on August 12 Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas' statement from Abu Dhabi that "in the name of the Palestinian Authority, we condemn the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and we condemn Saddam's regime for the crimes he committed in Iraq and Kuwait."

On August 12, all papers report comments by the Chairman of the Political Department of the PLO, Farouk Qaddomi that "hatred towards Palestinians still lives in the minds of Kuwaitis" and that Kuwait should apologize to the Palestinians instead of demanding an apology for PLO support of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

On August 11, all newspapers report on a petition signed by over forty intellectuals calling for revisions to the Kuwaiti constitution and a broad program of political and economic reform, including women's political rights.

All papers report on August 13 that three "Iraqi infiltrators" were detained after climbing over the border fence and entering Kuwait.

Editorials:

[11](#). "Why the Distortion?"
Dr. Yasser Al-Saleh wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (8/12): "One hundred days after the end of the military operations in Iraq, President Bush attempted to give the impression that things in Iraq are going well and are achieving many successes. However, in reality, things are different. The American and the British soldiers are attacked on a daily basis, and the security situation in Iraq is still unstable. The cost of the war, which is even expected to increase, is another indication that the war on Iraq was not successful."

[12](#). "The Prisoners of Guantanamo"
Liberal Dr. Ahmad Al-Baghdadi wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (8/11): "America did not abduct [the detainees at Guantanamo] from their homes-- they traveled to Afghanistan hoping to become martyrs. They were deceived by the Islamic state in Afghanistan and the teachings of Bin Laden. All the

prisoners at Guantanamo are terrorists and outlaws. They don't deserve to live in any civil society. They should receive a fair trial based on new [anti-terrorism] laws because traditional laws are not applicable to their cases as they are untraditional criminals."

13. "The Source of Hatred"
Editor-in-chief of independent Al-Anba, Bibi Al-Marzook, wrote (8/11): "Farouk Qaddomi's statement that hatred still lives in the minds of Kuwaitis and his demand for a Kuwaiti apology to the Palestinians is the same nonsense we have heard since August 2, 1990. The Palestinians still refuse to believe that Kuwait supports the rights of Palestinians and rejects Israel's occupation of Palestine. This disassociation from reality is what pushed the Palestinian leaders to blame all parties and accuse them of conspiracy against them. We refuse to apologize to people who do not deserve apology, and we refuse to defile our land with their presence among us."

14. "The Pimp of the Red Nights"
Saleh Al-Shayji wrote in independent Al-Anba (8/11): "Qaddomi demanded an apology from Kuwait while he and his cronies are drinking alcohol at the gambling tables of the casino in Jericho. People like Arafat and Qaddomi are the enemies of the Palestinian people. They are more hostile than Sharon, Netanyahu and Barak. They are obstructing Abu Mazen's path to resolve the Palestinian problems. Abu Mazen's journey must continue and succeed and this can only be achieved by toppling Arafat and Qaddomi."

15. "Insistence For an Apology"
Dr. Ayed Al-Manna wrote in independent Al-Watan (8/11): "Why does [Yasser Arafat] not apologize to a fellow Arab country which offered and is still offering all types of support to the Palestinian people? Is he afraid that Saddam will take revenge from him?"

16. "A New Stage and a New Era"
Dr. Sadeq Al-Bassam wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (8/12): "If we are beginning a new era then why do we need the Palestinians to apologize to us now? I am astonished by the reactions from both sides, as if we are disputing this issue in the Arab League. President Bush and British Prime Minister Blair warmly received the new Palestinian leader Abu Mazen, while we are still disputing his visit. The Kuwaiti people are known for their forgiveness and love for other people, and therefore, we should leave our hatred behind us and deal sensibly with the new stage."

17. "Rigidity of the Constitution is not a Drawback"
Former Secretary General of the Kuwait Democratic Forum, Ahmad Al-Dayeen wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (8/12): "Kuwaiti intellectuals who signed a statement to reform the political situation in Kuwait described Kuwait's constitution as the cause of Kuwait's crisis due to its rigidity. [but] the constitution is not the obstacle to achieving [democratic reforms]. The only obstacle to achieve these demands is the voting law, which should grant women their political rights, reduce the minimum age of eligibility to vote to 18 and allow the formation of political parties."

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